

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **14 CFR Part 39**

**[Docket No. FAA-2021-0796; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00098-R; Amendment 39-21824; AD 2021-24-03]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

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**SUMMARY:** The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Helicopters Model AS355NP helicopters. This AD was prompted by a report of mechanical deformation found on the protective cover (also referred to as switch guard) of the “SHEAR” control pushbutton installed on a co-pilot collective stick of a Model EC225LP helicopter, caused by incorrect handling; due to having an identical design switch guard installed on the pilot collective stick, Model AS355NP helicopters are also affected. This AD requires replacement of the protective cover of the “SHEAR” control pushbutton, and re-identification of the pilot collective stick, as specified in a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, which is incorporated by reference. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD is effective January 13, 2022.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of January 13, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** For EASA material incorporated by reference (IBR) in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; phone: +49 221 8999 000; email: [ADs@easa.europa.eu](mailto:ADs@easa.europa.eu); internet: [www.easa.europa.eu](http://www.easa.europa.eu). You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at <https://ad.easa.europa.eu>. You may view this material at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222-5110. It is also available in the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2021-0796.

## **Examining the AD Docket**

You may examine the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2021-0796; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, the EASA AD, any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Hal Jensen, Aerospace Engineer, Operational Safety Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA, 950 L'Enfant Plaza N SW, Washington, DC 20024; phone: (202) 267-9167; email: [hal.jensen@faa.gov](mailto:hal.jensen@faa.gov).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **Background**

EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA AD 2021-0027R1, dated January 22, 2021 (EASA AD 2021-0027R1), to correct an unsafe condition for all Airbus Helicopters (formerly Eurocopter) Model AS355NP helicopters.

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all Airbus Helicopters Model AS355NP helicopters. The NPRM published in the Federal Register on September 23, 2021 (86 FR 52853). The NPRM was prompted by a report of mechanical deformation found on the protective cover (also referred to as switch guard) of the “SHEAR” control pushbutton installed on a co-pilot collective stick of a Model EC225LP helicopter, caused by incorrect handling; due to having an identical design switch guard installed on the pilot collective stick, Model AS355NP helicopters are also affected. The NPRM proposed to require replacement of the protective cover of the “SHEAR” control pushbutton, and re-identification of the pilot collective stick, as specified in EASA AD 2021-0027R1.

The FAA is issuing this AD to address mechanical deformation on the protective cover of the “SHEAR” control pushbutton installed on the pilot collective stick. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in unintended shearing of the hoist cable, possibly resulting in injury to hoisted person(s). See EASA AD 2021-0027R1 for additional background information.

### **Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive**

### **Comments**

The FAA received no comments on the NPRM or on the determination of the costs.

### **Conclusion**

These helicopters have been approved by EASA and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with the European Union, EASA has notified the FAA about the unsafe condition described in its AD. The FAA reviewed the relevant data and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these helicopters. Except for minor editorial changes, this AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM.

## Related Service Information Under 1 CFR Part 51

EASA AD 2021-0027R1 requires replacement of the protective cover of the “SHEAR” control pushbutton, and re-identification of the pilot collective stick. This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

## Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 2 helicopters of U.S. Registry. Labor rates are estimated at \$85 per work-hour. Based on these numbers, the FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD.

### Estimated Costs for Required Actions

Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
2 work-hours × \$85 per hour = \$170	\$360	\$530	\$1,060

According to the manufacturer, some or all of the costs of this AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected individuals. The FAA does not control warranty coverage for affected individuals. As a result, the FAA has included all known costs in the cost estimate.

## Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

## Regulatory Findings

This AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

- (1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866,
- (2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (3) Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

## List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

## **The Amendment**

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

### **PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES**

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

#### **§ 39.13 [Amended]**

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:



**FAA  
Aviation Safety**

## **AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE**

[www.faa.gov/aircraft/safety/alerts/](http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/safety/alerts/)  
[www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/advanced.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/advanced.html)

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**2021-24-03 Airbus Helicopters:** Amendment 39-21824; Docket No. FAA-2021-0796; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00098-R.

**(a) Effective Date**

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective January 13, 2022.

**(b) Affected ADs**

None.

**(c) Applicability**

This AD applies to all Airbus Helicopters Model AS355NP helicopters, certificated in any category.

**(d) Subject**

Joint Aircraft Service Component (JASC) Code: 6700, Rotorcraft Flight Control.

**(e) Unsafe Condition**

This AD was prompted by a report of mechanical deformation found on the protective cover (also referred to as switch guard) of the “SHEAR” control pushbutton installed on a co-pilot collective stick of a Model EC225LP helicopter, caused by incorrect handling; due to having an identical design switch guard installed on the pilot collective stick, Model AS355NP helicopters are also affected. The FAA is issuing this AD to address mechanical deformation on the protective cover of the “SHEAR” control pushbutton installed on the pilot collective stick. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in unintended shearing of the hoist cable, possibly resulting in injury to hoisted person(s).

**(f) Compliance**

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

**(g) Requirements**

Except as specified in paragraph (h) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2021-0027R1, dated January 22, 2021 (EASA AD 2021-0027R1).

#### **(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2021-0027R1**

(1) Where EASA AD 2021-0027R1 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) This AD does not require the “Remarks” section of EASA AD 2021-0027R1.

#### **(i) Flight Condition Limitation**

As of the effective date of this AD: Do not perform external load operations until the modification required by Paragraph (1) of EASA AD 2021-0027R1 is complete.

#### **(j) No Reporting Requirement**

Although the service information referenced in EASA AD 2021-0027R1 specifies to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not include that requirement.

#### **(k) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)**

(1) The Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the International Validation Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (l) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: 9-AVS-AIR-730-AMOC@faa.gov.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

#### **(l) Related Information**

For more information about this AD, contact Hal Jensen, Aerospace Engineer, Operational Safety Branch, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, FAA, 950 L'Enfant Plaza N SW, Washington, DC 20024; phone: (202) 267-9167; email: hal.jensen@faa.gov.

#### **(m) Material Incorporated by Reference**

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the service information listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this service information as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless this AD specifies otherwise.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2021-0027R1, dated January 22, 2021.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For EASA AD 2021-0027R1, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; phone: +49 221 8999 000; email: ADs@easa.europa.eu; internet: www.easa.europa.eu. You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at <https://ad.easa.europa.eu>.

(4) You may view this service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222-5110. This material may be found in the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2021-0796.

(5) You may view this material that is incorporated by reference at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, email [fr.inspection@nara.gov](mailto:fr.inspection@nara.gov), or go to: <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

Issued on November 10, 2021.

Lance T. Gant,

Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2021-26604 Filed 12-8-21; 8:45 am]